

# Cascade County Mental Health Local Advisory Council

## Minutes



Monday, November 2, 2020  
Zoom Virtual meeting  
3:00 pm -5:00 pm



**Members Present** Jennifer Whitfield, Jane Weber, Shawn Matsko, Tom Osborn, Jessie Slaughter, Susie McIntyre, John Schaffer, Linda Daggett

**Guest Present** Josh Harris, Deputy Sheriff

**Call to Order:** Jane Weber, acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM. Welcome was made to our guest.

### **Election of Officers**

**Nominated for Chair:** Linda made a motion to accept the nomination of Jennifer Whitfield for Chair and Susie seconded the motion. Motion passed. Congratulations were extended to Jennifer.

**Nominated for Vice-Chair:** Jessie made a motion to accept the nomination of John Schaffer for Vice Chair and Jennifer seconded the motion. Motion passed. John was congratulated.

Jennifer continued the meeting as Chair.

**Approval of the Minutes from October 2020** After some time given to review the minutes, Jane made a motion and John seconded to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

**Finance Report** Shawn reported that we received a check from Western Montana Mental Health Center (from Central Service Area Authority (CSAA) a one-time grant for \$4,643.83. That has been deposited in our account. Jane followed up to see what stipulations the grant had and there are none. The budget report does not reflect the deposit yet, as it was recently deposited. The Budget Report was presented; however, was confusing as it showed a negative balance. Jane will follow up with Mary Embleton at the County to clarify this and report back to the Council.

### **Representative Reports**

**Crisis Services: Crisis Steering Committee, Crisis Intervention Committee (CIT):** John and Jennifer

- John was just recently informed that the \$750,000 grant submitted to the Department of Justice was not accepted. They did give feedback suggestions about successfully applying the next time. The grant was for Mental Health Court and other crisis support services.
- The Crisis Response Team (CRT) data report presented by Jennifer. It included data from September 2017-October 2020. In October, 93% of individuals were diverted from the jail, 62% from the ER. There is 57% diversion rate overall.

- John and Jennifer were part of a very productive meeting with Great Falls Emergency Services – Justin Grohs and other providers including the City Medical Director – Dr. David Simpson, Great Falls Fire & Rescue – Jeremy Jones, Alluvion – Dusti Zimmer and Great Falls Emergency Services: Paramedicine Program – Peter Tyler. Their goal is to increase services for suicide prevention at multiple access points.

Suicide Prevention Committee: No report

CSAA report: No report

### **Community Reports/Announcements from Board Members**

Sheriff's Office- Sheriff Jesse Slaughter reported.

- The mental health evaluations at the jail are going smoothly. They are planning to hire a behavioral health specialist in January.
- Sheriff Slaughter submitted his resignation as a member on the Council. He is recommending that Josh Harris replace him in the Sheriff's Office position on the LAC. Jessie was thanked for his service and the resignation was accepted.

North Central Independent Living (NCILS)- Tom Osborn reported.

- They are continuing to use the Cares Act grant for transitions, transportation, and some food insecurity for the disabled.
- Tom met with Rachael Doran from City County Health Department to learn more about participation in the Connect statewide referral system and plans to implement it at NCILS.

Great Falls Public Library- Susie McIntyre reported.

- The Library is staying open as a safe place including those with mental illness, taking all the health precautions necessary.
- Through the State Library they are loaning Wi Fi Hot Spots to patrons. These enable internet connection out of the Library.

Center for Mental Health- Jennifer reported.

- The Center is doing more contact tracing recently.
- They are having to adjust back to Stage One protocol to keep the COVID cases down.

Commissioner-

- Jane reported that Amanda Walker indicated she was interested in membership on LAC; however, has not turned in an application yet. Jennifer will reach out to Amanda.
- Jane will reach out to Gayle Snyder as a current member.
- Jane will reach out to the Benefis CEO John Goodenow to request a representative on LAC.

### **Public Comment**

Tom Osborn has become aware of a court filing regarding a Montana Association for Center for Independent Living. He will be sending a formal letter to say that NCILS is not a member of this organization and is not sure what their mission is.

Susie McIntyre, who also a member of Continuum of Care, spoke of a need to connect some unhoused people with COVID- and likely behavioral health issues- to services. Jennifer indicated that there are some emergency housing services, including hotels, available to temporarily quarantine the unhoused and that individuals have been referred to these.

Jennifer announced that Montana Peer Network will speak at the next meeting.

**Adjourn** The meeting was adjourned by Jennifer Whitfield, Chair, at 3:56 PM. Next meeting December 7, 2020.

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Jennifer Whitfield, Chair

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Date